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10/804,480	03/19/2004	Roger K. Richter	232310-5	7259
53982 7590 02/05/2009 General Electric Company GE Global Patent Operation PO Box 861 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 648 Shelton, CT 06484				
EXAMINER				
HOLDER, ANNER N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2621				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,480

Applicant(s)

RICHTER ET AL.

Examiner

ANNER HOLDER

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CD/CIS)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-72 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. Claims 1- 32 and 69-70 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decisions indicate that a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. While the instant claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claims neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. For example there is no device recited within the claims to accomplish the method claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 SC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Banitt US 5,963,247.

5. As to claim 1, Banitt teaches receiving at least one digital image data input stream, said digital image data input stream containing digital image information; [abstract; figs. 3-5; col. 9 lines 23-45 – includes but does not limit to photographic film in capturing images; col. 21 lines 3-6] creating at least two digital image data streams from said at least one digital data input stream, each of said at least two digital image data streams comprising at least a portion of said digital image information; [abstract; figs. 3-5; fig. 8; fig. 10; col. 9 lines 23-45; col. 13 line 46 - col. 14 line 9; col. 14 lines 31 - col. 15 line 9] merging said at least two digital image data streams into a common digital image data output stream; [fig. 2a; fig. 3; converting said common digital image data output stream into an analog image output stream; [col. 18 lines 39-42] and providing said analog output image stream for transmission across said analog interface; [col. 18 line 39-42] wherein said at least one analog interface is a video analog transmission interface; [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60] and wherein said step of creating at least two digital image data streams comprises at least one of the following steps: preformed prior to said step of merging said at least two digital image data streams: segmenting an image of said at least one digital image data input stream into multiple segment that each correspond to one of said at least two digital data streams, and inserting alignment data into one or more of said multiple segments; [col. 15 lines 9-27; fig. 6; col. 18 lines 43-60; figs. 2-3; portion of the image represent segments which are selected, combined and aligned primary image [fig. 3 (204)] and secondary images [fig.

3 (210 and 208)] are aligned] or extracting at least one portion of an image frame of said at least one digital image data input stream to form a windowed partial image corresponding to one of said at least two digital image data streams, providing multiple possible available frame rates for each of said at least two digital image data streams, and adapting a frame rate of at least one of said at least two digital data streams to one of said multiple possible available frame rates to match the bandwidth characteristics of said analog interface to allow the transmission of desired amount of image information within the bandwidth of said analog interface; or combination thereof.

Banitt does not explicitly teach the input of digital video. However, the system of Banitt includes but does not limit to photographic film in capturing images and that the system allows for modification keeping in the spirit of the invention.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that capturing of video images via a digital means would allow for processing efficiency and improved image quality.

6. As to claim 2, Banitt teaches extracting at least one portion of an image frame of said at least one digital image data input stream to form a windowed partial image corresponding to one of said at least two digital image data streams, providing multiple possible available frame rates for each of said at least two digital image data streams, and adapting a frame rate of at least one of said at least two digital data streams to one of said multiple possible available frame rates to match the bandwidth characteristics of said analog interface to allow the transmission of desired amount of image information within the bandwidth of said analog interface; [col. 18 line 39-42; figs. 3-4; col. 13 line

46-60; col. 15 lines 9-50; col. 17 lines 4-35; figs. 6-8] one of said at least two digital image data streams comprises a first image having a first resolution; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60] wherein another of said at least two digital image data streams comprises a second image having a second resolution; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] and wherein at least one of: said first and second resolutions are different, or said first image comprises a different portion of said digital image data input stream than said second image, or a combination thereof. [figs. 4-5; col. 4 lines 42-52; col. 6 lines 28-33; col. 7 lines 41-55; col. 13 lines 9-24; 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9]

7. As to claim 3, Banitt teaches one of said at least two digital image data streams is created to comprise a first image having a first resolution and a first frame rate; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] wherein another of said at least two digital image data streams is created to comprise a second image having a second resolution and a second frame rate; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] wherein said first resolution is higher than said second resolution, and said first frame is lower than said second frame rate; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] and wherein said method further comprises selecting said first and second frame rates so that said first image and said second image are transmitted simultaneously together across said analog interface as said analog output image stream without exceeding the maximum frame transmission rate capacity of said interface. [figs. 4-5; col. 4 lines 42-52; col. 6 lines 28-33; col. 7 lines 41-55; col. 13 lines 9-24; 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9]

8. As to claim 4, Banitt teaches digital video signal received from a digital video source; [abstract; figs. 3-5; col. 9 lines 23-45 – includes but does not limit to photographic film in capturing images; col. 21 lines 3-6] and wherein said method further comprises providing said analog output image stream as an analog video signal for transmission across said analog interface; [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60] and further comprising receiving said analog video signal from across said analog interface, said analog video signal comprising said first and second images; [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60] and displaying said first and second images of said analog video signal on an analog display device. [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60]

9. As to claim 5, teaches segmenting an image frame of said at least one digital image data input stream into multiple segments that each correspond to one of said at least two digital images data stream, and inserting alignment data into one or more of said multiple segments. [col. 18 lines 43-60; figs. 2-3; portion of the image represent segments which are selected, combined and aligned primary image [fig. 3 (204)] and secondary images [fig. 3 (210 and 208)] are aligned]

10. As to claim 6, Banitt teaches creating a third digital image data stream from said at least one digital data input stream, said third digital image data stream comprising at least a portion of said digital image information and having a third resolution; [abstract; figs. 3-5; fig. 8; fig. 10; col. 9 lines 23-45; col. 13 line 46 - col. 14 line 9; col. 14 lines 31 - col. 15 line 9] converting said third digital image data stream into a second analog image output stream; [col. 18 line 39-42] and providing said second analog output image stream as a second analog video signal for transmission across a second analog

interface receiving said second analog video signal from across said second analog interface, said analog video signal comprising said third image; [figs. 3-5; col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60] and displaying said third image of said second analog video signal on a second analog display device; [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60] wherein at least one of: said third resolution is different from said first and second resolutions, or said third image comprises a different portion of said digital image data, or a combination thereof. [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9]

11. As to claim 7, Banitt teaches said creating further comprises extracting a window area from said original image information and scaling said extracted window area to create said third image as a zoomed image; [figs. 6-8; fig. 2C; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8] and further comprising controlling a value of said scaling in real time based at least in part on a command signal, or controlling the position of said extracted window area relative to said original image in real time based at least in part on a command signal, or a combination thereof. [figs. 4-6; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27]

12. As to claim 8, Banitt teaches said first and second resolutions are different and wherein said method further comprises displaying said first image at said first resolution while simultaneously displaying said second image at said second resolution. [figs. 1-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 27]

13. As to claim 9, Banitt teaches said creating further comprises using scaling to create said first image as a zoomed image prior to said step of merging; [figs. 2-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27] wherein said second image is not a zoomed image; [figs. 2-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27] and

wherein said step of displaying comprises displaying said zoomed first image on an analog display device while simultaneously displaying said second unzoomed image on said same analog display device. [abstract; figs. 2-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27; col. 18 lines 19-42; col. 17 lines 4-35; col. 7 lines 56-63; col. 9 lines 37-45]

14. As to claim 10, Banitt teaches controlling a value of said scaling in real time based at least in part on a command signal. [figs. 3-4; fig. 11; col. 18 lines 19-28]

15. As to claim 11, Banitt teaches said digital image information comprises an original image; [figs. 3-8; abstract; col. 9 lines 20-45] wherein said step of creating said first image comprises extracting a window area from said original image information to create said first image prior to said step of merging; [figs. 2-8; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8; col. 15 lines 9-50] and wherein said step of displaying comprises displaying said first image on an analog display device while simultaneously displaying said second image on said same analog display device. [abstract; figs. 2-5; col. 18 lines 19-42; col. 17 lines 4-35; col. 7 lines 56-63; col. 9 lines 37-45]

16. As to claim 12, Banitt controlling the position of said extracted window area relative to said original image in real time based at least in part on a command signal. [figs. 6-8; col. 15 lines 9-50]

17. As to claim 13, Banitt teaches said digital image information comprises an original image; [figs. 3-8; abstract; col. 9 lines 20-45] wherein said step of creating said first image comprises extracting a window area from said original image information and then upscaling said window area to create said first image as a zoomed image prior to

said step of merging; [figs. 6-8; fig. 2C; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8] and wherein said step of creating further comprises downscaling said original image information to create said second image; [fig. 6; col. 15 lines 10-27] and wherein said step of displaying comprises displaying said zoomed first image on an analog display device while simultaneously displaying said downscaled second image on said same analog display device, said second image being downscaled such that it does not occupy the full analog display space of said analog display device, and said first image being displayed on at least a portion of said analog display device that is not occupied by said second image. [abstract; figs. 2-6; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27; col. 18 lines 19-42; col. 17 lines 4-35; col. 7 lines 56-63; col. 9 lines 37-45]

18. As to claim 14, Banitt teaches said analog interface is a video transmission interface having a limited transmission capacity that is insufficient to transmit said digital information of said digital image data input stream; and wherein said method further comprises reducing the frame rate of at least one of said at least two digital image data streams below native frame rate allow the transmission of said analog output image stream across said analog interface. [col. 18 line 39-42; figs. 3-4; col. 13 line 46-60; col. 15 lines 9-50; col. 17 lines 4-35; figs. 6-8]

19. As to claim 15, Banitt teaches at least one of controlling the position of said extracted window area relative to said original image in figs. 4-6; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27] time based at least in part on a command signal; controlling a value of said upscaling of said extracted window area in real time based at least in part on a

command signal; or a combination thereof. [figs. 4-8; fig. 2C; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27]

20. As to claim 16, Banitt said at least two digital image data streams comprises at least four digital image data streams; wherein a first one of said at least four digital image data streams comprises a first image having a first resolution; ; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] wherein a second one of said at least two digital image data streams comprises a second image having a second resolution; wherein a third one of said at least four digital image data streams comprises a third image having a third resolution; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] and wherein a fourth one of said at least four digital image data streams comprises a third image having a third resolution; [figs. 4-5; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] wherein each of said at least four images either has a resolution that is different from each of said other at least four images, or comprises a different portion of said digital image data input stream than each of said other of said at least four images, or a combination thereof; . [figs. 4-5; col. 4 lines 42-52; col. 6 lines 28-33; col. 7 lines 41-55; col. 13 lines 9-24; 46-60; col. 14 line 50 - col. 15 line 9] wherein said analog video signal comprises said first, second, third and fourth images; wherein said digital image information comprises an original high resolution image, and wherein said step of creating said first, second and third images comprises extracting respective first, second and third window areas from said original image and then upscaling said first, second and third window areas to create said first, second and third images as zoomed images prior to said step of merging; wherein said step of creating further comprises

[figs. 42-8; fig. 2C; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27] scaling said original image information to create said fourth image; [fig. 6; col. 15 lines 10-27] and wherein said step of displaying comprises displaying said zoomed first, second, and third zoomed images on an analog display device while simultaneously displaying said downscaled fourth image on said same analog display device, said fourth image being downscaled such that it does not occupy the full analog display space of said analog display device, and said first, second and third images being displayed on at least a portion of said analog display device that is not occupied by said fourth image. [abstract; figs. 2-6; col. 13 lines 46-60; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27; col. 18 lines 19-42; col. 17 lines 4-35; col. 7 lines 56-63; col. 9 lines 37-45]

21. As to claim 17, see the discussion of claim 15 above.
22. As to claim 18, see discussion of claims 1 and 6 above for common subject matter.
23. As to claim 19, see discussion of claim 2 above.
24. As to claim 20, see discussion of claim 3 above.
25. As to claim 21, see discussion of claims 1 and 6 above for common subject matter.
26. As to claim 22, see discussion of claim 10 above.
27. As to claim 23, Banitt teaches receiving said composite analog video stream containing said first and second images from across said interface; and displaying said first and second images contained in said composite analog video stream on a common analog display device. [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60; fig. 12]

28. As to claim 24, see discussion of claim 2 for common subject matter.

Banitt teaches said first processing operation comprises a downscaling operation; [fig. 6; col. 15 lines 10-27] and wherein said second processing operation comprises an image windowing operation, an image scaling operation or combination thereof. [figs. 4-8; fig. 2C; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27]

29. As to claim 25, see the discussion of claim 10 above.

30. As to claim 26, see the discussion of claim 15 above.

31. As to claim 27, see the discussion of claim 16 above.

32. As to claim 28, see the discussion of claim 13 above.

33. As to claim 29, see the discussion of claim 13 above.

34. As to claim 30, see the discussion of claim 6 above.

35. As to claim 31, see the discussion of claim 15 above.

36. As to claim 32, see the discussion of claim 12 above.

37. As to claim 33, see the discussion of claim 1 above for common subject matter.

38. As to claim 34, see the discussion of claim 2 above.

39. As to claim 35, see the discussion of claim 3 above.

40. As to claim 36, Banitt teaches an analog display device coupled to said analog interface and configured to receive said analog video signal from across said analog interface and to simultaneously display said first and second images of said analog video signal. [col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60; fig. 12]

41. As to claim 37, see the discussion of claim 6 above.

42. As to claim 38, see the discussion of claim 7 above.

43. As to claim 39, see the discussion of claim 3 above.
44. As to claim 40, see the discussion of claims 2 and 9 above for common subject matter.
45. As to claim 41, see the discussion of claim 10 above.
46. As to claim 42, see the discussion of claim 13 above.
47. As to claim 43, see the discussion of claim 12 above.
48. As to claim 44, see the discussion of claim 13 above.
49. As to claim 45, see the discussion of claim 14 above.
50. As to claim 46, see the discussion of claim 7 above.
51. As to claim 47, see the discussion of claim 16 above.
52. As to claim 48, see the discussion of claim 15 above.
53. As to claim 49, see the discussion of claim 1 and 4 above for common subject matter.
54. As to claim 50, see the discussion of claim 2 above for common subject matter.
55. As to claim 51, see the discussion of claim 4 above for common subject matter.
56. As to claim 52, see the discussion of claim 49 above.
57. As to claim 53, see the discussion of claim 10 above.
58. As to claim 54, see the discussion of claim 23 above.
59. As to claim 55, see the discussion of claim 15 above.
60. As to claim 56, see the discussion of claim 10 above.
61. As to claim 57, see the discussion of claim 15 above.
62. As to claim 58, see the discussion of claim 16 above.

63. As to claim 59, see the discussion of claim 13 above.
64. As to claim 60, see the discussion of claim 13 above.
65. As to claim 61, see the discussion of claim 6 above.
66. As to claim 62, see the discussion of claim 15 above.
67. As to claim 63, see the discussion of claim 12 above.
68. As to claim 64, see the discussion of claim 14 above for common subject matter.
69. As to claim 65, Banitt teaches said multiple resolution image creation circuitry comprises multi-resolution image processing circuitry that comprises at least one window circuitry component, at least one image scaler circuitry component, and at least one frame buffer circuitry component. [figs. 4-8; fig. 2C; col. 12 line 59 - col. 13 line 8; col. 14 line 59 - col. 15 line 27]
70. As to claim 66, Banitt teaches least two analog devices, each of said at least two analog display devices being coupled to said multiple resolution image creation circuitry by a separate respective analog interface. [Fig. 1; col. 10 lines 9-22, 28-42; col. 18 line 39-42; col. 13 lines 58-60; fig. 12]
71. As to claim 67, see the discussion of claim 7 above.
72. As to claim 68, Banitt teaches said command signals comprise camera control commands.
73. As to claim 69, see the discussion of claim 1 above.
74. As to claim 70, Banitt teaches receiving said common digital image data output stream from across said digital interface, said common digital image data output stream comprising said first and second images; [col. 10 line 42 - col. 11 line 4; col. 18 lines 1-

42] and storing said first and second images, displaying said first and second images on an display device, or a combination thereof. [col. 18 lines 19-42]

75. As to claim 71, see the discussion of claim 1 above.

76. As to claim 72, see the discussion of claim 70 above.

Conclusion

77. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Aharoni et al. US 6,014,694; Kenoyer et al. US 2003/0048353 A1.

78. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

79. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anner Holder whose telephone number is 571-270-1549. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, M-F 8 am - 3 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anner Holder/

Examiner, Art Unit 2621 01/26/09

/Tung Vo/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621